

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 13014 301347Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN WARSAW
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTO 13014

EXDIS (TREAT AS NODIS)

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NI, US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE TO NYERERE'S LETTER ON RHODESIA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE TO
NYERERE'S LETTER ON RHODESIA WHICH SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO
NYERERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGIN TEXT DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 13, WHICH REACHED ME A FEW DAYS
AGO, ADDED TO THE WARMTH OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. BECAUSE
THE IDENTITY OF OUR VIEWS ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION IS SO
MARKED, I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT 1978 WILL SEE THE CREATION OF
AN INDEPENDENT, MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE.

I AGREE THAT WE MUST MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY AND FOR THIS
REASON I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DR. OWEN'S INVITATION
TO MR. MKOMO AND MR. MUGABE TO JOIN HIM IN SERIOUS NEGOTIA-
TIONS. AS YOU POINT OUT, THE ROLES OF THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES
DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD REMAIN TO BE DEFINED.
THIS IS THE KIND OF THING WE EXPECT REPRESENTATIVES

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OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO DISCUSS IN LONDON OR WHEREVER
THE MEETING IS HELD. TALKS WITH THEM WILL DEMONSTRATE
THAT OUR SETTLEMENT EFFORT, AIDED BY YOUR SUPPORT AND
ASSISTANCE, CONTINUES TO PROCEED.

FOR THIS MEETING TO SUCCEED, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD
AVOID ANY PRECIPITATE MOVES IN THE UN OF ELSEWHERE

WHICH COULD COMPLICATE OR DIVERT ATTENTION FROM OUR EFFORTS. I HOPE THAT YOU AND OUR OTHER AFRICAN FRIENDS AGREE AND WILL COLLABORATE WITH ANDY YOUNG TO THIS END.

THE BRITISH WHITE PAPER OF SEPTEMBER 1 SETS FORTH A REASONABLE, LOGICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO TRANSFORM RHODESIA FROM MINORITY TO MAJORITY RULE. IT REQUIRES MR. SMITH TO RELINQUISH POWER. IT NEUTRALIZES RHODESIA'S ARMED FORCES, AND CREATES A NEW ZIMBABWEAN ARMY WHICH, AS WE AGREED, WILL BE BASED ON THE LIBERATION FORCES. WE ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROPOSALS. SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTS WHICH IGNORE IDEAS LIKE THESE DO NOT MERIT OUR SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT PROVIDE FOR LASTING PEACE. FOR THIS REASON, I SHARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE RECENT INITIATIVES OF MR. SMITH. IN THIS CONNECTION, I AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR REVEREND SITHOLE AND BISHOP MUZOREWA TO SEE THAT OUR EFFORTS CAN BEAR FRUIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

YOUR LETTER REMINDS ME OF HOW SIMILAR OUR GOALS FOR ZIMBABWE ARE. WE, LIKE YOU, DO NOT WISH TO IMPOSE A PARTICULAR ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL SYSTEM ON ZIMBABWE OR TO CHOOSE ITS LEADERS. RATHER, WE WISH TO END A SITUATION WHICH OFFENDS THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD. WE WANT TO GIVE ITS PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT
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THEIR LEADERS IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE FROM FEAR. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT BE PERCEIVED BY THEM AND BY THE WORLD AS DULY CONSTITUTED AND DESERVING OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT.

THE COMING YEAR WILL BE A MOMENTOUS ONE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AND I APPRECIATE YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND ADVICE IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES THAT WILL ARISE.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

WARMEST REGARDS, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT
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